

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NEW BERN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT CRAVEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In 1995, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in cooperation with the Tryon Palace Historical Commission initiated a plan to improve the streets (GS 95-0074) within the boundaries of the New Bern National Register Historic District in Craven County (Figure 1). The improvements included upgrading the storm drain, resurfacing roads, replacing curbs, installing new sidewalks and removing trees on Eden, Pollock and George streets. These three streets border the Tryon Palace Historic Site and Gardens on the west and north (Figure 2). This project was planned to improve the drainage of storm water from the pavement during inclement weather, to repair damaged and deteriorating walkways and curbs, to enhance the historical character of the area and to alleviate concerns about the safety of pedestrians in the historic district.

After officials at Tryon Palace and the City of New Bern brought the drainage problem to the attention of NCDOT, plans were made to address these problems using funds provided by the Secretary of Transportation. Realizing that historic archaeological remains related to Tryon Palace and the early history of New Bern may be encountered in the construction project, archaeologists at both NCDOT and the Division of Archives and History were consulted about compliance with legislation that protects cultural resources. North Carolina General Statute 121-12(a) stipulates that a state-funded project must take into account the effect of the undertaking on any property listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*. In addition, North Carolina Executive Order XVI, Section 2(d), requires that state agencies ensure that “steps be taken to make records” of any property listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* that “will be substantially altered or demolished” as a result of a state action. To comply with the above legislation, an agreement between NCDOT, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Tryon Palace Commission resulted in providing archaeological monitoring during construction of the street improvements in the New Bern National Register Historic District.

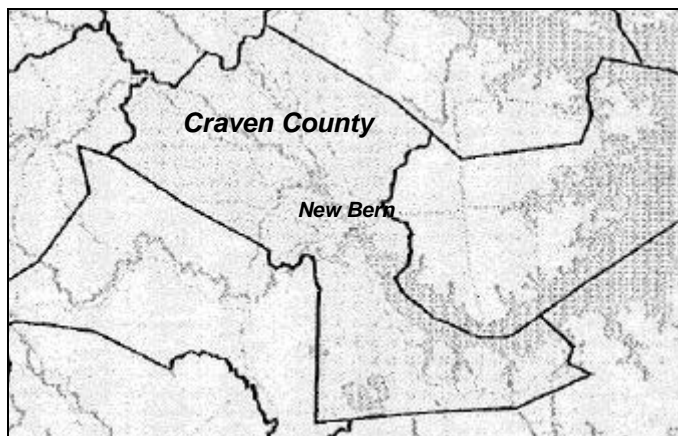


Figure 1. Project location.